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amongst some town tokens, &c., and sent them to him, and neither saw him nor heard of the coins for two or three months, when he informed me they were Etruscan, and pointed out to me the plates of them in your work.

“ I felt that you would be pleased to see them, and the first opportunity I had of mentioning the circumstance was at my own house, where, before dinner, I showed them to you, the Rev. Mr. Edgeworth, and Dr. Henry, President of the Belfast College, &c. They never were seen by any other person, nor were they ever out of my possession from the time I received them until I sent them to the Academy, in consequence of a note from Mr. Clibborn to me; and to Dr. Petrie I stated the particulars as I mentioned them to you.

“ The only other things I got, when I subsequently made inquiries to observe where the coins were found, were some of what they termed Danish pipes, acknowledged to be found in digging the foundations of the warehouse attached to the house, and which foundations they were compelled to sink very deep, and ultimately to complete by driving piles into the soft soil,—evidently part of the river bank.

“ I never attend evening meetings, or, assuredly, I would attend the Royal Irish Academy. If I ever supposed that we could procure positive evidence that these coins were dug up from a considerable depth, the fact could not be used in support of any theory, except in connexion with other facts. I was interested by the extraordinary fact that they were chiefly coins figured in Etruria Celtica, and this rendered me desirous that you should see them.

“ Believe me, my dear Sir William,

“ Very truly your’s,

“ CHARLES HALIDAY.

“ *Sir W. Betham,*

“ *&c. &c.*”

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Mr. George Yeates communicated the following notice of a Meteor :

On the 13th of December, 1847, while walking on the South Circular Road, near the Richmond Penitentiary, about 11 o'clock at night, he observed a remarkable meteor; it first appeared in the west, very brilliant, and about  $30^\circ$  above the horizon; it moved rapidly towards the observer, passing between him and the above-named building, in an easterly direction; disappeared about 500 yards off, and a slight noise from it was distinctly heard as it passed.

The evening was rather cloudy; wind southerly.

Barometer,	. . . . .	29.716
Thermometer,	. . . . .	$53^\circ$

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Sir William Rowan Hamilton gave an account of some applications of Quaternions to questions connected with the Rotation of a Solid Body.

I. It was shown to the Academy in 1845, among other applications of the Calculus of Quaternions to the fundamental problems of Mechanics, that the composition of statical couples, of the kind considered by Poinsot, as well as that of ordinary forces, admits of being expressed with great facility and simplicity by the general methods of this Calculus. Thus, the general conditions of the equilibrium of a rigid system are included in the following formula, which will be found numbered as equation (20) of the abstract of the Author's communication of December 8, 1845, in the Proceedings of the Academy for that date:

$$\Sigma . a\beta = -c. \quad (1)$$

In the formula thus cited,  $a$  is the *vector of application* of a force denoted by the other vector  $\beta$ ; and the scalar symbol,  $-c$ , which is equated to the sum  $a\beta + a'\beta' + \dots$  of all the quaternion products  $a\beta, a'\beta', \dots$  of all such pairs of vectors, or directed lines  $a$  and  $\beta$ , is, in the case of equilibrium, independent of the position of the point from which all the vectors